

CHAPTER NO. 791

HOUSE BILL NO. 2718

By Representatives Eckles, Maddox

Substituted for: Senate Bill No. 2591

By Senators Herron, Harper

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 68, Chapter 11, Part 15, relative to the confidentiality of certain information concerning health care patients.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 68-11-1503, is amended by deleting the first sentence and substituting instead the following:

The name and address and other identifying information of a patient shall not be divulged except for:

(1) Any statutorily required reporting to health or government authorities;

(2) Access by an interested third-party payer (or their designee) for the purpose of utilization reviews, case management, peer reviews, or other administrative functions;

(3) Access by health care providers from whom the patient receives or seeks care; and

(4) if the patient does not object, any directory information including only the name of the patient, the patient's general health status and the patient's location and phone number. Directory information shall be released to all inquirers only if the patient has been notified, upon admission to the hospital, of his or her right to object to the information which may be released and has not objected; or, if the patient is in a physical or mental condition such that the patient is incapable of making an objection and the next of kin or patient representative does not come forward and object.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.

PASSED: April 16, 1998


JIMMY RAIFEH, SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES


JOHN S. WILDER
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE

APPROVED this 23rd day of April 1998


DON S. QUIST, GOVERNOR